

WT Docket 04-140 is a prime and truly unfortunate example of regulatory review and practices plainly out of step and behind the times.

While WT Docket 04-140 expressly addresses meaningful issues of several RM filings from prior years, its March 31, 2004 adoption date provided nearly nine (9) months for the FCC to have included and responded to more recent RM filings subsequent to and resulting from the significant developments at WRC-03 resulting in changes to Article 25.

Unfortunately 04-140 is a feeble stride. It missed an opportunity to address current issues which are of major interest to nearly all parties interested in the growth and expansion of the Amateur Service. Specifically, band use frequency reallocations, license restructuring, and, the issue of a Morse testing requirement, amongst other matters.

The FCC has a rare opportunity in a context of rapid global advancement to substantially and comprehensively revamp the structure of the Amateur Service, thereby returning the United States to a meaningful leadership position in the world's Amateur radio community.

I enthusiastically encourage and call upon the FCC to promptly accelerate and prioritize its proceedings to review, comment and issue an updated, revised or supplemental NPRM pertaining to those 18 (approximately) RM filings regarding contemporary and prime important Amateur Radio Service matters which were otherwise left out of WT Docket 04-140.

With regard to the ARRL's band restructuring proposal RM-10413, it is my view that the ARRL has not gone far enough, and, that the NCVEC RM-10870 offers an improved and more contemporary suggestion than that offered by the ARRL. Nearly all the bands below 30 MHz (with the exceptions of 10 Meters, 30 Meters, and 160 Meters) are in need of a significant reallocation of where Phone mode privileges are premitted. The NCVEC proposal is better than the ARRL's, but even more Phone mode space should be accommodated. Digital modes (and even the arcane Morse mode as beloved as it is to those who enjoy that mode) are very efficient and consume little bandwidth compared to phone. Yet, it is verbal phone communication which inspires the world's populations to fuel the growth and expansion of radio. I encourage the FCC to proceed beyond its adoption of RM-10413 and to embrace the NCVEC RM-10870 as a new threshold template and extend the Phone mode allocations even further than that proposed in RM-10870.

Regarding the various proposals and positions concerning License restructuring and Morse testing, my view is as follows:

Adopt a simple three tier License structure. RM-10870 is exemplary. I encourage the FCC to use it as a guide or template. Grandfather current Tech and Codeless-Tech to General.

Regarding Morse testing, abolish the impediment. Permit the desire of learning to inspire those inclined to study the regulations, technical, electronic, RF, and related areas of the hobby to take and pass the multiple choice exams. Remove a skills demonstration from the system, as has already been done by many administrations. Permit the change to rapidly progress. Implement accelerated changes to the regulations and let the Amateur Service have a chance to flourish. If the FCC continues to drag its administrative feet, time will pass and so will potential users of the hobby. In today's world, cell phones, video games, the Internet, e-mail and Instant Messaging, along with picture and video phones are very rapidly satisfying the desires of many to effectively

communicate without testing barriers. Should the FCC persist with impediment testing at the entry level the Amateur Service will die faster. And, should Morse testing be retained the mostly elderly and quite vocal upper top echelon of the Amateur Radio Service will likely not be replaced when they soon fall silent key.

Respectfully submitted,

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